

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 24, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on April 24, 2009 at 12:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Conrad C. Eckert, Eckert Services;
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Carl Kundey, CWS, Inc;
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Betty Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Darrell Stankey, Montana DEQ;
Rick Thompson, Montana DEQ.

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE (CALL-OFF):

Kelly Brown, Browns Septic, Inc;
Barbara Woodbury, Sanders County Sanitarian;
John Hazen, Hegar Septic (GWWS);

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Kenneth E. Wheeler, Kenneth Wheeler;
Jamie Hillman, Jim's Backhoe & Septic Service;
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP;
Susan Bashor, Sweet Pea Sewer & Septic
Frank Laverell, Laverell's Inc.
Brian Tatman, Heavy Water Haulers Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR January 21, 2009 MEETING

Conrad Eckert - Chairman asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the January 2009 minutes was made by Don Heimbigner and seconded by Carl Kundey. The motion carried and the January 21, 2009 minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. *Review and discuss training workshop critiques and the next training workshop topics.* Those present reviewed the critique comments from the workshop and determined the majority were good to excellent. Carl Kundey stated that this was his second workshop he has attended and at each one he has learned something new. One of his employees was also in attendance and learned a lot. He is more careful now when he goes to a job. Members discussed next year's training. Renai Hill

stated that she attended the National Pumper Convention and spoke with distributors at the tradeshow. All indicated that they would come to Montana if we held a tradeshow. The following recommendations were made for next year's training:

- Have two classrooms going at the same time and the pumper chooses which one to attend.
- Have sessions for new pumpers.
- Have two day training and tradeshow.
- Workshop and tradeshow going at the same time. On the second day of the tradeshow have it open to the public.
- Have basic training on septic systems for the public on the second day.
- Tradeshow for distributors and have licensed pumpers also set booths up – Open to public.
- Location of show might be hard at the Red Lion Colonel Inn, but it is centrally located and has rooms for those sleeping over. Fairgrounds in Helena might work, but will need to check for accommodations. The down side would be that there are no hotels/motels or eating establishments close by.
- Change the time of year when the tradeshow and workshop is held. This would enable equipment to be outside.
- What vendors/distributors the pumpers want to see at the show? Some suggestions are trucks, dewatering equipment, additives, hoses, and portable toilets. Conrad will check with other pumpers and see what they want.

2. *Educating the Public.* Renai Hill stated as part of the training initiative to educate the public, she has drafted a guide for the homeowner. The document is titled, "A Montana Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems". She would like everyone to take a look at the document and provide comments. Is it covering all issues and problems you encounter? Carl Kundey likes the single handouts he received during the last training and would like more copies. Additional copies can be obtained from Joe Meeks (Pollution Prevention Assistance Division/Source Water Protection Program).

3. *Enforcement Update.* Renai Hill spoke with Bob Smith (Enforcement), who stated that there was nothing going on right now. There is Enforcement Action being taken on a pumper who has been operating without a license. The license expired on December 31, 2008 and the business continued to operate from January 1, 2009 through April 2009 without renewing their license. Those businesses identified to the Department over the last year as operating and never having applied for a license have all been licensed with the exception of one who is no longer conducting business.

4. *General Discussion.* Conrad Eckert discussed the lack of attendance by committee members and other Septic Tank Pumper Businesses. Renai Hill stated that she mailed out meeting reminders to all licensed pumper businesses. Conrad Eckert requested a letter and handouts be sent to those SPAC members who did not attend. He requested a list of pumper businesses so he can call them and maybe get more pumpers to attend SPAC meetings.

Renai Hill reported that John Clark of Scenic City Enterprises sent an e-mail at 8:47am this morning giving his resignation from SPAC immediately.

Conrad Eckert discussed having a rebate or incentive payback to homeowners for pumping their systems.

Renai Hill stated that she spoke with Steve Kilbreath (Public Water Bureau/Subdivision) to discuss who approves commercial septic systems. He was unable to attend the meeting today, but is willing to attend our next meeting. His program is currently developing new design standards and they would welcome comments from SPAC. Conrad Eckert (Chairman) and John Hazen (Vice-Chairperson) names and phone numbers were given to Steve Kilbreath.

The committee would like Norm Mullen (DEQ Attorney) to discuss and clarify 75-10-1210 MCA which states: **License required -- exception.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) a person may not engage in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, or privies or dispose of septage unless licensed by the department. (2) An owner or lessee of property from which septage is removed may dispose of that septage on that person's property if: (a) the person pumps the septage with the person's equipment or retains a person licensed pursuant to the provisions of subsection, (1) to pump the septage; and (b) the disposal does not violate disposal restrictions or rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-1202 or create a nuisance or public health hazard.

Several Committee members recommended inviting other County Sanitarians to attend upcoming SPAC meetings. Conrad Eckert stated that Dan Hooten (Ravalli County Sanitarian) has indicated interest in the Committee.

A current list of septic tank pumpers was provided to the Committee. Renai Hill reported that the Department has received 153 STP renewal applications and 8 new STP applications. As of today a total of 163 STP licenses have been issued.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2009, 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

2. Agenda items for next meeting

- Committee input on the Homeowner Guide to Septic Systems;
- Norm Mullen clarification on 75-10-1210 MCA;
- Steve Kilbreath to discuss commercial septic systems;
- 2010 training workshop/tradeshow.

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.